Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the general formula (I):

$$R^6 - R^5 - R^4 - SO_2 - W$$
 (I)

wherein W is a group represented by the formula:

$$\xi - N = 0$$
 $\xi - R^2 R^{2'}$
 $\xi - R^1$
 $\xi - R^3 R^3 R^3 R^3$

wherein R¹ is NHOH, hydroxy, or lower alkyloxy;

R² and R² are each independently hydrogen atom, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aralkyl, optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl;

R³ is hydrogen atom, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted aryl, optionally substituted aralkyl, optionally substituted heteroaryl, or optionally substituted heteroarylalkyl;

$$Z^{1}$$
 is -CH₂-, -NH-, -O-, or -S-;

a broken line (---) represents the presence or absence of a bond;

R⁴ is optionally substituted phenylene or optionally substituted thiophenylene;

R⁵ is a group represented by the formula:

R⁶ is optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted naphthyl, optionally substituted furanyl, thiophenyl, optionally substituted cyclohexyl, optionally substituted cyclohexenyl, optionally substituted benzoxolanyl, optionally substituted benzoxolanyl, or optionally substituted benzodioxanyl;

its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein W is a group represented by the formula:

$$\begin{cases} -N & C-R^1 \\ R^3 & O \end{cases}$$

wherein R¹, R², and R³ are as defined in claim 1, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^6 is a group represented by the formula:

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})m$$

wherein R⁷ is each independently halogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, lower alkyloxy, lower alkyloxy, lower alkylthio, halo(lower)alkyl, halo(lower)alkyloxy, halo(lower)alkylthio, hydroxy, hydroxy(lower)alkyl, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, acyl, acyloxy, nitro, cyano, optionally substituted amino, or optionally substituted aminocarbonyl; m is an integer from 0 to 3; n is an integer from 0 to 4; p is an integer from 0 to 5; q is an integer from 0 to 6; r is an

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integer from 0 to 7; s is an integer from 0 to 11, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.

- 4. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R¹ is hydroxy, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.
- 5. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R² is lower alkyl optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, lower alkylthio, guanidino, amino, or cycloalkyl; aryl optionally substituted by hydroxy; aralkyl optionally substituted by halogen, hydroxy, or nitro; heteroaryl optionally substituted by hydroxy; heteroarylalkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or hydrogen atom, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 5, wherein R² is hydrogen atom, methyl, isopropyl, s-butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, hydroxymethyl, 1-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, carboxymethyl, carboxymethyl, carbamoylmethyl, carbamoylethyl, mercaptomethyl, 2-methylthioethyl, cyclohexylmethyl, 3-guanidinopropyl, 4-aminobutyl, phenyl, 4-hydroxybenzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 4-chlorobenzyl, 4-bromobenzyl, 4-nitrobenzyl, phenylethyl, 1-naphthylmethyl, 2-naphthylmethyl, biphenylmethyl, indolyl, thienyl, indol-3-ylmethyl, (5-hydroxyindol-3-yl)methyl, thiophen-2-ylmethyl, imidazolylmethyl, benzoxazol-2-ylmethyl, benzthiazol-2-ylmethyl, or benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.
- 7. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R³ is hydrogen atom, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R⁴ is 1,4-phenylene or 2,5-thiophendiyl, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 1, wherein R⁶ is a group represented by the formula:

$$(R^{7})p$$

$$(R^{7})r$$

$$(R^{7})m$$

wherein R⁷, m, p, r, and s are as defined in claim 3, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.

10-11. (Canceled)

- 12. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition which contains a compound of claim 1 as an active ingredient.
- 13. (Previously presented) A metalloproteinase inhibitor which contains a compound of claim 1 as an active ingredient.
- 14. (Previously presented) A matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor which contains a compound of claim 1 as an active ingredient.

15-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 2, wherein R⁶ is a group represented by the formula:

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$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})p$$

$$(\mathbb{R}^{7})m$$

wherein R⁷ is each independently halogen, lower alkyl, cycloalkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, lower alkyloxy, lower alkenyloxy, lower alkylthio, halo(lower)alkyl, halo(lower)alkyloxy, halo(lower)alkylthio, hydroxy, hydroxy(lower)alkyl, carboxy, lower alkyloxycarbonyl, lower alkylsulfonyl, carbamoyl, acyl, acyloxy, nitro, cyano, optionally substituted amino, or optionally substituted aminocarbonyl; m is an integer from 0 to 3; n is an integer from 0 to 4; p is an integer from 0 to 5; q is an integer from 0 to 6; r is an integer from 0 to 7; s is an integer from 0 to 11, its optically active substance, their pharmaceutically acceptable salt, or a solvate thereof.